

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3982
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2017
Awareness Drive for School Dropouts
Bhatt Smt.Ranjanben

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to initiate awareness drive for the dropout students;
- (b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government so far in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) to (c): Section 4 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children. Those children who have missed out certain academic years either because they were never enrolled in school or dropped out of school, have a right to special training in residential and non residential mode, subsequently to be mainstreamed in formal schools in age appropriate class.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rs. 103.07 lakh children have benefitted from the special training from 2011-12 to 2015-16. For the year 2016-17, an amount of Rs. 64204.69 lakh has been approved for special training of 11,29,881 children.

As a part of the SSA, States and UTs undertake community mobilization drives to ensure that parents enroll and send their children to school.

The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) scheme was launched in 2009 and the objectives include reducing dropout rate of students and improving the retention rate at the secondary stage. The scheme provides for improving access by approving new secondary schools and by providing additional classrooms, science laboratory, library, computer rooms, art/craft/culture rooms, toilets, drinking water facilities etc. in new secondary schools and existing secondary schools. Interventions like survey and identification of out of school children, awareness programme, bridge courses, special teaching for learning enhancement etc. have also been supported under RMSA to address issues relating to dropout. Under RMSA, 12,394 secondary schools have been approved since inception across all States/UTs, out of which 10,397 secondary schools have already become functional. RMSA has also supported strengthening of infrastructure of existing schools in 37,382 Government Secondary Schools.

As per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) data, the average annual dropout rate at elementary level has declined from 4.15% in 2013-14 to 4.10% in 2014-15, whereas at the secondary level the dropout rate has reduced from 17.86% in 2013-14 to 17.06% in 2014-15